FTA NEWS

TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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Reynolds Workers KO CIO Raid; Majority Chooses FTA Local 22

Despite an absolutely unprecedented campaign of red-baiting hysteria, a majority of workers at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem this week chose FTA Local 22 as their collective bargaining agent by a firm majority.

To do so, the workers had first to eliminate two raiding unions, one CIO and the other AFL, which they did by a better than six to one vote against the CIO union and three to one against the AFL. A runoff between FTA and "no union" then became necessary, in which FTA Local 22 came out on top.

The score:

For FTA Local 22 4428
For "no union" 4381

One hundred thirty-four votes were challenged, most of them by FTA, on the ground that they represented attempts by supervisors and foremen to vote illegally.

The earlier score in the race between FTA, the CIO Transport Service Employees and the AFL Tobacco Work-

(Continued on Page 3)

Local leaders were active in aiding the coal miners in their fight to save their union from Taft-Hartley destruction. Here Local 633, Lancaster, Pa., pitches in with food and cash. Over a ton of food and clothing was collected, and Lancaster unions chipped in $600 in money. A delegation of six went to Irwin, Pa., with the contributions, where they were enthusiastically received. FTA Local 633 leaders in the picture are (third from left) Treasurer Andrew Dotterman and (fourth from left) Miriam Cliff, Local 633 president.

Smile of victory on four FTA leaders came when workers in the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem rejected CIO disruption by a six to one landslide. First vote gave FTA Local 22 4,428, while raiding CIO Transport Service Union got only 941. AFL, also on the ballot, got only 2,514. Grinning from left to right are: Robert C. ("Chick") Black, co-chairman, FTA Local 22; John Tate, acting general president; Robert Latham, intl. vice-president, and Donald Henderson, national administrative director. (See story, page 1).

Campbell Workers Win

(See Page 3)

Ten thousand FTA workers at the Campbell Soup Co. in Camden, N. J., and Chicago, tied up their contract this week into a substantial package including a straight raise, vacation improvements, better seniority, union voice in labor standards and

Under the contract, laid off workers will now receive accumulated vacation pay even if laid off as much as a year, where previously they lost it fter 60 days of layoff.

Seasonal workers also get new protection, with their seniority now starting from the time they are hired instead of on October

Insurance benefits include a $2,000 company paid life policy, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and up to $25.00 a week sickness benefits for Chicago workers as well as those in Camden.

Other gains include maintenance of membership, without an escape clause, union participation in labor standards, and an informal agreement to increase pensions.

FTA 78 Hits CIO Raid

"The same unity that made it possible for Local 78, FTA, to defeat two AFL Teamster raids and just win a substantial wage increase from the Growers and Shippers will guarantee a smashing defeat of the CIO raiders who want to destroy the hard won gains of the shed workers and their union."

These opening remarks by FTA Local 78 Presid[illegible] Duke Cunningham keyn[illegible] the opening session of [illegible] cal's executive council [illegible] by [illegible] in Fresno, Calif., March [illegible] and 26. The most important business facing the officers and council members of FTA Local 78 was to complete plans to defeat the CIO raid and enforce the new contract, which is the best contract in the history of the union and carries the highest rates and best benefits of any contract in the packing shed industry.

The present CIO raid against Local 78 started with open support of Philip Murray and national CIO by former local secretary Lewis Joyce and other officers of the Imperial Valley Division of the local. These officers have since been removed from office and have been found guilty by a trial committee of the loyal union.

In commenting on the CIO raid Edna Cooney, acting General Secretary of Local 78 said:

"Our workers will have no part of CIO and its policy. We smashed the shippers and their CIO stooges when they tried to block our fight for a wage increase and will smash this raid."

An effort of the national CIO to block the enforcing of the new contract failed when the shippers labor committee notified officials of Local 78, on March 14, that they recognized FTA Local 78 as the holder of the contract and requested that the union meet with them to draft final language.

Facts Behind the Red Scare

By C. W. Fowler

The latest red scare in Washington could be funny—if it wasn't so deadly serious. The spectacle of stuffed shirt reactionaries in the State Department being redbaited by stuffed shirt reactionaries in Congress may make entertaining reading, but behind the public spectacle are some pretty grim facts that concern every man and woman in this country who gets a living by working for it.

Currently, the Republicans are rubbing the Truman administration's nose in the red herring barrel. Obviously their purpose is to drum up votes for next November. Unlike the Democrats, the Republican strategists are opposed to even mentioning real issues, preferring to stick to straight redbaiting and nothing else. The Democrats, who redbait just as vigorously as the Republicans, believe in mentioning issues as well. They've found it gets votes.

But behind the apparent clowning of pro-fascist Senators out to smear red on Dean Acheson's spats lies a much more serious purpose than simple rivalry for the spoils of office.

To Get Labor

The real purpose behind the redbaiting duel now going on in Washington is one that both Republicans and Democrats share alike, despite the public bitterness of their current quarrel.

This real purpose can be very simply stated—it is to smash every vestige of independent, democratic trade unionism left in the U.S.A.

It isn't even a secret any more. Tom Clark, when he was Truman's attorney - general, boasted about it as he started the fourth round frameup trial of Harry Bridges, saying publicly that the trial would bring an end to the strike of ILWU members then going on in Hawaii.

Now one of the bright young lawyers in the Justice Department, a man named Raymond P. Whearty, has revealed that his department has about 12,000 cases ready to go as soon as the Supreme Court rules on the trial of the 11 Communist party leaders held last year in New York.

Almost all of these 12,000 cases involve officials or rank and file members of unions. Naturally, those on the progressive side lead the list, but there's plenty of others too. When it comes down to brass tacks, the bosses don't care much for differences between right and left—they just don't like unions, period.

Mass Production Trials

The Justice Dept., Whearty says, plants to get these trials disposed of within a very few weeks or days after they get the go signal from the Supreme Court.

This means something new in America — mass production trials on a national scale. We've had them before of course, when local stooges in judge's robes have sentenced whole picketlines to jail, but not on a national scale equal to this.

But this is only a beginning. If the Mundt-Ferguson "anti-subversive bill becomes law, the 12,000 will become 120,000 or 12,000,000 as the law is enforced. This bill, which has been criticised even by the leaders of the CIO, can turn the entire country into a Hitler-style concentration camp.

The whole thing is to be done of course, in the name of "anti-communism," just as in Germany. And, just as in Germany, certain officials of the labor movement will be in there helping the boss to cut labor's throat.

The government's main stoolpigeon against Bridges gave the game away when he testified that CIO President Philip Murray and Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey were perfectly content to have Bridges framed and convicted on perjured testimony. Carey himself has publicly acted as stoolpigeon against his own union, when as a member of UE in 1948 he testified against UE at a Congressional hearing. It would be nothing new for him to do it in court.

Old, Old Story

Government attacks on labor are an old, old story. So is the use of court trials and savage prison sentences against labor leaders and rank and filers. Stoolpigeons are as old as Judas.

Nobody likes to be called an alarmist or to get the reputation of crying wolf when the flock is not in real danger. But today the danger is more than threatening—it's here.

Fascism is like the rattlesnake—it buzzes a warning before it strikes. Those warnings are buzzing loudly in America today.

Harold Christoffel, former president of UAW Local 248 in Milwaukee, got a two to six year sentence in his second trial for "perjury" before the House Labor Committee in 1947. The first trial was upset when the Supreme Court ruled a quorum was not present during the alleged perjury. Fourteen Congressmen were found willing to swear they had been present, despite the Supreme Court. The Congressmen denied Christoffel's lawyer the right to look at the minutes of the meeting. Every newspaper reporter in Washington knows the quorum was not there in 1947—but swearing away six years of a union leader's life is just duck soup to some people.

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For the first time in history, qualified Negro workers will get a chance at skilled jobs in the U. S. Bureau of Engraving, where all the folding money is made. Before, the green stuff was strictly lily-white, if you'll pardon the mixed metaphor. Who won the concession for Negro engravers? You guessed it—the United Public Workers, one of the unions expelled from CIO.

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Following up on the murder job done by Democrats and Republicans on FEPC, the Democrat controlled House Labor Committee has axed the Federal aid to education bill. After all, who in hell needs to be educated if he can't get a job anyway?

• • •

And the Senate—also firmly controlled by the Democrats—has just killed a housing bill that was supposed to help the "middle income group." There was no reason to kill any bills on low income housing, for the simple reason none had been introduced.

• • •

Congress has refused to act on civil rights, education, housing, health, social security, food prices and farm income, Taft-Hartley, etc., but right now it's in a tearing hurry to pass the Mundt-Ferguson thought control law. This is the only item that wasn't promised the voters by President Truman in 1948. Delivery on that little number seems to be in good shape. And unlike other C.O.D. parcels, you won't be allowed to refuse to pay for it when it comes.

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Business, says Secretary of Commerce Snyder, is sound. This despite six million unemployed and constantly falling purchasing power. Farmers income, for example, is down 23 percent. Some day the Secretary may wake up to the facts of life—as Herbert Hoover did on election day, 1932.

Force Delay in Drive Against Union Heads

The government's drive to deport non-citizen union leaders and active rank and filers got a setback in the U. S. Supreme Court ruling that deportation officials can't act as judge and prosecutor both in some 135 cases now pending.

Former FTA vice-President Luisa Moreno Bemis, FTA Local 7 Business Agent and Intl. Executive Board member Ernest Mangoang, Chris Mensalvas, Ponce Torres and other active FTA members are affected by the ruling, which is expected to force the government to scrap its whole case against them and start all over again.

Specifically, the six to one ruling of the Supreme Court tells U. S. Immigration officials they can't sit in judgment on cases brought by themselves, as they have been doing. The previous practice was to have the Immigration man act as prosecutor, jury, judge and executioner of the sentence all in one.

However, the ruling leaves the basic issues of the FTA and other labor union cases untouched. Each case has followed the usual pattern of charging "communism" against active unionists who have been prevented from securing citizenship.

All the FTA members involved have been many years in this country, working and contributing to the nation's wealth. Each of them has a long record of fighting for the workers in highly exploited and highly profitable industries.

Lavish use of stoolpigeons has marked the hearings. In FTA Local 7, the government has tried by threats and bribery to recruit them from rank and file workers. In the Luisa Moreno Bemis case, one stoolpigeon, a Hearst reporter named Nat Honig, got himself thoroughly and ludicrously balled up in testifying on "communism."

It happened when Sister Bemis's lawyer, Robert W. Kenny, who is a former California state attorney-general, read an extract from a speech and asked Honig to identify it. Honig blurted out: "It was probably written by a communist," whereupon Kenny told the court the speech was written by John Foster Dulles, top Republican party leader and adviser on foreign affairs to Tom Dewey.

Such blunders, however, don't stop the government bloodhounds. Latest high-handed Immigration Dept. action is the raising of bail on the FTA and other cases. Sister Bemis's bail has been upped from $1,000 to $4,000, and similar hijacking jobs have been done on the others.

FTA members are urged to write protests against these tactics and against the whole deportation drive to the U. S. Commissioner of Immigration, Washington 25, D. C. demanding that bail be lowered and all persecution of union leaders and rank and filers be stopped.

Here's Where You're Going —Says CIO

Just in case you didn't know it, the CIO has got plans for you. They may differ slightly from your ideas, too.

Do you think of yourself as a tobacco worker, belonging in a tobacco workers union? Well, you're wrong. You're a Transport Service Employe, more commonly known as a redcap.

Think you're a cannery worker, belonging in a food workers union? Wrong again. You're a Packinghouse Worker, and you ought to be grateful to be told.

Perhaps you've always thought of yourself as a cereal worker? Wrong, so wrong. You're a Brewery Worker—and don't get the notion that means free beer either.

That's what the man says—and the man is Allan S. Haywood, director of CIO organization, vice-president of CIO, vice-president of the CIO Steelworkers Union, a man with a big payroll to meet. (Thirty of them in the election fiasco down in Winston-Salem.)

These plans for you and you and you were announced by CIO a couple of weeks ago — FTA tobacco workers to the Transport Service Employees Union, CIO, FTA cannery workers to the United Packinghouse Workers, CIO, FTA cereal workers to CIO Brewers.

Icé on the Payche

News from the never-never land of CIO collective b... shows that the wage freeze, first made fashionable by Murray's Steelworkers Union last year, is spreading like ice February pond.

Latest group of CIO members to be pushed into the frozen pay locker are the 4,600 members of the Transport Workers Union (CIO), whose leaders settled a two week strike against American Airlines for zero wage increases. The strike had completely closed down the airline when TWU President Michael J. Quill stepped in. Original demand was for 20 cents an hour.

(Mike Quill, who once got by as a progressive, used to love to say: "I'd rather be called a red by the rats than a rat by the reds.")

The CIO Oil Workers union, whose president O. A. Knight is one of the CIO "trial committee" judges, has just announced through its national wage policy committee that it won't even ask for increases "at this time." One news service reported it this way: "No wage policy was adopted by the committee, which agreed to call a later meeting for that purpose if necessary." *(Presumably the next step should be to abolish the committee altogether.)*

Across the nation, 300,000 General Motors workers were led by UAW President Walter P. Reuther even further down the road than Murray was willing to go when they received a two cents an hour wage cut under the UAW contract, which is tied to the official cost of living.

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FTA LOCAL 22 WINS IN REYNOLDS RUNOFF VOTE

(Continued from page 1)

ers Union brought a stunning defeat to CIO and AFL both, but particularly to the CIO. The score here was:

For FTA Local 22	3323
For CIO	541
For AFL	1514
For "no union"	3426

CIO Big Push

The CIO defeat was stunning, and all the more so because almost the entire money and resources of the CIO's "Southern Organizing Drive" were put into the effort to bust Local 22. CIO Drive Director George Baldanzi, who disgraced himself by insults to Negro workers at the 1949 CIO convention, was in personal charge of the raid.

The raiders had all the resources of a company controlled town and state at their disposal. The mayor of Winston-Salem went on the air with violent red-baiting attacks on FTA. The city aldermen passed a special resolution attacking FTA. Hundreds of "prominent businessmen," (translation: businessness in hock to Reynolds and Reynolds controlled banks) put their names to newspaper ads denouncing FTA.

The Winston-Salem newspapers, all two of them, also [illegible] led the [illegible] against the union that [illegible] Reynolds workers

[illegible] Enough

[illegible] FTA's [illegible] of facts, sparked by [illegible] devoted rank and [illegible] who distributed literally hundreds of thousands of leaflets, made thousands of house calls, and a hard hitting publicity campaign including radio speeches by FTA national leaders, rank and filers and organizers, and a weekly newspaper, won Local 22 its victory.

In a statement issued after the first election victory, FTA Acting President John Tisa and Vice-President Robert Lathan thanked Reynolds workers for their support, saying:

"In view of such a vote, we now consider we have a mandate from the workers to combine the labor vote, as well as appeal to the rest of the Reynolds workers to support FTA Local 22, under the banner of 'the bigger the union vote, the better the contract.'"

FTA Administrative Director Donald Henderson, commenting on the union victory in the runoff, said:

"The results are a victory for the Reynolds workers and for FTA Local 22. Despite the hysteria of red-baiting slanders against our union promoted by the company, the majority of Reynolds workers chose to vote FTA as their bargaining agent.

"Reynolds workers have shown they want FTA Local 22 to bargain collectively for them. That is the verdict of the election. FTA intends to see that this verdict is carried out."

A strong FTA pledge to follow through on the challenged votes, so that votes of foremen and supervisors "are not permitted to weaken the voice of the majority of Reynolds workers" was also pledged.

This is the kind of fascist filth the CIO News is putting out nowadays. Cartoon from "IUE-CIO News" (official publication of the I (for Imitation) UE chartered by CIO after expelling original and genuine UE) shows Goebbels style anti-Semitic caricature of a UE worker—hooknose, scraggly beard, horn-rimmed glasses and hammer and sickle. Julius Streicher, Nazi leader hanged by the allies at Nuremberg, edited a Nazi paper with cartoons like this one. Note the name on the paper—James B. Carey. What's next—anti-Negro cartoons?

FTA 150, 102 in Contract Gains

Marked gains are reported by FTA Local 150, Nashville, Tenn,. and 102, Corinth, Miss., in contracts just renewed with four firms.

FTA 150's new pact with Ralston Purina brings a five cent straight raise, six paid holidays, company paid life insurance of $2,000, company paid pension plan plus social security, a two weeks vacation after two years, three weeks after 15 years.

Local 102 won 10 cents straight at the Corinth Brickyard Co., plus two added holidays, more vacation, and an end to speedup.

At Buckeye Cotton Oil in Corinth, 102 won a four cent straight raise, double time for holidays, and adjustments on procution. Gains won by 102 at Federal Compress in Corinth include a five cent raise, plus holiday and other gains as in the others.

CIO Paper Union Busts Own Locals

Hold your nose while you read this one—it's the story of how the CIO Paper Workers Union, now busily engaged trying to raid FTA Local 55, busted one of its own locals at the boss's command.

The story, as reported by the New York Times (All The News That's Fit to Print), lists Local 229, United Paperworkers, CIO, tells how Paperworkers International President Harry Sayre agreed to cut the workers' wages back to 1949 levels, removed the local president, fired the union's area director, cut crews from four to three (a 25 percent layoff), reduced work from a seven day a week basis to six, meaning more layoffs, and abandoned all pension and insurance benefits in the contract before.

All this — and more — was done by Paperworkers President Sayre in a series of long distance phone conversations with the owner of the plant, who was in England. No negotiations, no meetings—just a few phone calls and 215 out of 385 workers are out of jobs. Only 140 went back.

To top it all, the boss said after the deal was over that the remaining jobs would depend on the "willingness" of those returned to work, not on any signed agreement.

The local had been on strike for 9½ months. Sayre, incidentally, was one of the CIO "judges" in the recent trials and expulsion of progressive CIO unions.

FTA 75 Wins 9-16c

Wage increases up to 16¾ cents an hour and averaging nine cents were won by FTA Local 75, Houston, Texas, in its new contract with Arrow Mills, Inc.

Additional paid holidays up to seven per year, and increases in vacation pay were also won. The new contract removes almost all the workers from the incentive system, which had been a mask for terrific speedup in the plant.

Campbell Workers Win Raise, Other Benefits

A substantial straight across the board wage increase, plus major improvements in seniority, vacations, health benefits, insurance and other important gains were won for 10,000 FTA members in FTA Local 80 and 194 in the new contract just signed with the Campbell Soup Co. in Camden and Chicago.

The contract gains add up to an eight cent package, including a four cent straight raise retroactive to March 1. Pension improvements agreed to by the company add an additional amount.

Seniority improvements are among the most important gains in the new contract. Under it, workers who are laid off will retain their seniority for a period up to one year, in place of the previous system which allowed the company to deny seniority to workers laid off for more than 60 days.

Seasonal Workers Gain

Laid off workers will also receive accumulated vacation pay if they are actively employed at the start of the vacation period. Before, they could be deprived of vacation pay if they were laid off before the vacation period started.

In another major contract gain, seniority of seasonal workers will now date from the time they are hired, rather than from October 1 as before. Since all seasonal workers are hired well before October 1, this is an important gain to them, ruling out favoritism in retaining their jobs.

Vacations, which were at the rate of two weeks after one year, are extended to three weeks after 15 years.

Health and insurance benefits include a $2,000 life insurance policy for each worker, paid by the company, as well as Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance. Blue Cross is to be paid by the company, as are one half of the Blue Shield surgical benefits.

A $25.00 a week sickness and disability payment, already in force in the Camden plant, is extended to the Chicago plant.

The pension agreement represents a substantial gain to the workers, including those who are already on pension. Under it, the company will add $1.50 for each month's service to the amount already paid, to which in turn are added Federal Social Security payments.

Labor Standards

Under an agreement to work out improvements in the labor standards system, the union is to receive full and detailed information on the methods used in arriving at the standards, and is to be fully informed on allowances made for fatigue and other factors in the system.

Union security is provided by maintenance of membership, without an escape clause, subject to a National Labor Relations Board union shop election to be scheduled soon.

The contract runs for two years, with a wage reopener on March 1, 1951. The right to strike is retained by the union.

FTA Urges Full Social Security for Shed and Agricultural Workers

Full social security for packingshed and agricultural workers was urged on the U.S. Senate this week in testimony presented by FTA on the proposed amendments to the Social Security law.

The testimony, presented by FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly, urged the Senators to right the injustice done to shed workers when Congress excluded them from old age benefits in 1939, and called for coverage for all agricultural workers.

"The original exclusion of agricultural workers from the Social Security act was indefensible on grounds of humanity, economics and reason," the FTA testimony declared.

"These workers, historically and notoriously the most underpaid and least secure of all American workers, have always had the greatest need for such protection.

"When the exclusion of agricultural workers was extended in 1939 to processing workers, by the device of calling these workers 'agricultural,' the injustice became doubly indefensible."

Administration Simple

The old alibi that "administrative difficulties" are too great to permit coverage of field workers was exposed by FTA citing several reports of government officials approving a proposed stamp plan, under which the field workers and the employers would use stamps to record the amount of benefit credits earned.

Considerable stress was put in the FTA presentation on the need of shed workers for coverage, the testimony pointing out that the economics of their work made it doubly necessary.

"A typical lettuce shed worker works in Salinas, Calif., from May through October. Then he must go to the Salt River Valley in Arizona—700 miles away —for six weeks of work. In January he goes to Imperial Valley—another 500 miles—for a 2½ month season.

"During this time, he takes his family with him, paying for transportation, paying high rent for temporary quarters, or he leaves his family behind, paying double rent and being deprived of their company.

"It is obvious such an itinerary does not leave much margin for saving against old age. And when the worker decides to settle down, say in Salinas, he of course loses work and income as the result."

States Copy Exclusion

Encouraged by the Federal government's bad example in excluding shed workers, the FTA went on to say, most states also discriminate against them by excluding them from unemployment compensation, thus leaving them without resources between seasons.

"FTA wishes to stress the importance and the immediate need, as well as the feasibility, of removing shed workers from the unfair exclusion put upon them in 1939, and of extending coverage to agricultural workers who need it as much and more than any other group in the nation," the FTA statement said.

"Common justice and equity to a large, hard working and heavily exploited section of the American people demands that it be done."

CIO Takes To Lying

The national CIO, having failed in its blitz war against the members of FTA, has taken to outright lying in its attempt to break up FTA locals and take over FTA contracts.

The latest big CIO lie appears in the Feb. 27 issue of CIO News, which says that FTA Local 78 and Local 64 in California and Arizona have voted to withdraw from FTA and affiliate to CIO.

The exact opposite is the truth. No such votes have taken place in either local. Recent meetings of rank and file members of Local 78 have voted unanimously to support FTA policies. Rank and file members of FTA Local 64, San Diego, Calif., have refused to withdraw from FTA despite intervention by redbaiting CIO payrollers and redbaiting appeals by other outside agencies.

FTA locals have been carrying on full and free discussions of the issues caused by the disruptive activities of CIO. They are not being stampeded — as CIO News tries to tell its readers—and they are staying with FTA.

All members are urged to read FTA News and to watch for special bulletins to FTA locals from the FTA national officers for the facts.

CIO officials must be getting desperate, when they have to resort to outright lies in their campaign against FTA contracts and conditions.

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS...

ALMANAC OF UNEMPLOYMENT

"The Seasons" have long been the favorite theme of poets, composers, dramatists and other creative souls.

With his explanations of rising unemployment, Commerce Sec. Charles Sawyer is rapidly qualifying to join these artists. In January, when unemployment increased by 991,000 over the previous month, Sawyer said there was little to worry about because "a sizable increase is to be expected between December and January because of seasonal developments." He did not refer to the fact that the January 1950 monthly increase was more than a quarter of a million higher than the January figure.

Now the Commerce Dept. has announced that in February the nation's jobless rose to 4,684,000, the highest figure in nine years. "The picture for February was considered encouraging," the Wall Street Journal reported. "The relatively small rise in unemployment was looked on as a good sign by the department." Why? Because last month the increase was almost a million and this month it was "only" 204,000.

What seasonal factor caused the February increase? The Commerce Dept. explained that it was probably due to entry into the labor field of recent high school and college graduates who had not previously been looking for work. Actually, there were more entries into the labor force last year than this. The Census Bureau's figures show that in 1949 the January-February increase in the labor force was 310,000 while this year the January-February increase was only 210,000.

No Alibi

It's no good. Everyone knows that during the summer months at the peak of agricultural activity both the labor force and the volume of employment rise. But repeated reliance on seasonal explanations of changes in the labor market does not explain why total employment in February 1950 was less than total employment in February 1949 although there are more than one million additional job seekers this year. Nor do they explain why unemployment climbed from 3,200,000 in February 1949 to 4,700,000 in February 1950, an increase of more than 45%.

Everyone seems to recognize this but the calendar-minded secretary of commerce. Business Week (Feb. 25) admits: "The unemployment headache is bigger than official comments indicate. The hope at the turn of the year was that business would rise fast enough to keep unemployment from becoming either a severe drag on the economy or a political issue. Fingers were crossed that the jobless would stay under five million, which is regarded as the 'danger' line. That hope is wearing thin. Seasonal factors account for only a part of the estimated 4.7 million out of work this month."

The fact is we passed the five million mark some time ago. Labor economists are generally agreed that the Commerce Dept. unemployment figures are about 1½ million shy of the real mark.

Total civilian employment in February was 58,963,000—substantially below the 60 million mark set long ago and way below the level of about 65 million which would be needed to sustain a high level for the economy.

Call it inadequate wages—not January; excessive corporate profits—not February; Taft-Hartley—not March; an overburdensome arms budget—not April; inadequate social security—not May. Recognize unemployment and its causes by their names and organized labor will unite to correct those causes. It's more realistic than trying to change the seasons.

FTA Hits High In Dogfood Pay

Union dog lovers can now feed their pooches on dog food made by the highest paid workers in the industry—members of FTA Local 194 at the Rival Packing Corp. in Chicago.

The new high comes in a contract renewal that adds another eight cents straight across the board to minimum earnings already well in advance of the field.

The new minimums reach $1.23½ an hour, ages of course be[low] erably higher. [The] runs for two [years] a consent union [has] subject to the usual [reopening].

FTA workers at [Rival] a fourth round [increase] 10 cents last [year] this their fifth [round]. Steelworkers, [Textile] ers, etc., please [note].

Jim Crow in CIO — Its Official Now, Writer Says

The following editorial on Jim Crow and other anti-Negro policies in the CIO was written by Ralph Matthews, columnist of the Washington Afro-American. Text is given in full.

(Note: the Afro-American is a conservative Negro weekly with a circulation of around 500,000, published in several editions throughout the U.S.)

"THIS WEEK—Labor Being Sold Short by Murray?

'Operation Dixie' or How Our Race is 'Double-Crossed.'"

By Ralph Matthews

Several weeks ago when I first pounced on Messrs. Roy Wilkins, Willard Townsend and company for their audacity at "screening" the Americans who would and would not be allowed to attend the recent Civil Rights Mobilization here (Washington, D. C.) I was merely indignant over what I thought was patriotic snobbishness.

At the moment I only abhorred the idea, which was grown too popular of late, of one group of so-called Americans setting themselves up on a pedestal as the true patriots while denouncing others as traitors and skunks.

This I believe to be very bad medicine, both for the prescribers and for the nation as a whole, because being a good American means many different things to many different people.

I knew only that my idea of what constituted a good American, and Rankin's idea, were incompatible.

CIO & Rankin

Therefore, when the present leaders of the NAACP, with their CIO cohorts, accepted the Rankin formula and tried to force the rest of us to conform to that mold, I realized that somebody had gotten fouled up somewhere.

But now I know what I had only suspected then, that Roy Wilkins had allowed himself to be duped into a big game of power politics in which he was the victim of his own inability to see further than his nose.

In permitting the mobilization to be used as a sounding board against the so-called leftist CIO unions, Mr. Wilkins turned his back on most of the things the NAACP stands for and made a marriage of convenience with an emaciated skeleton which is but a shadow of the once liberal CIO.

The reason most of the so-called Red-dominated unions have been given the boot and are now castigated by their former associates is not that they adhere to any Moscow line, but that they insist on following the line of inter-racial liberalism, which the CIO followed itself before it got fat and greedy.

The unions which are being purged and with which Mr. Wilkins refuses to associate are the same unions which refuse to fall in line with the new CIO policy which calls for conformity with America's traditional policy of segregation and jim-crowism.

Jim Crow in CIO

It is no strange coincidence that the so-called red unions all maintain their original interracial composition from the top down, while the so-called loyal unions, the ones Mr. Wilkins prefers to associate with, are not only lily-white but are making a desperate effort to break the membership of the purged unions up into jim-crow segments.

This goes even for the parent body of Philip Murray himself, whose United Steelworkers Union has not one colored member on its 41 member board, in spite of the fact that better than one-third of the membership is colored.

This also goes for the saintly Walter Reuther, whose 22 man board of the United Auto Workers is also lily-white.

I wonder whether, when Mr. Wilkins decided to join forces with the CIO purge, he knew that the new national policy of CIO calls for the organization of Jim Crow unions throughout the South.

I wonder whether he knew that the national CIO, during the last election, threw its support behind John J. Sparkman of Alabama, whose campaign cry was "Vote for me and your mother and sister will not have to work beside a colored person."

But the so-called leftist unions opposed him.

I wonder whether Mr. Wilkins knows that the CIO union halls in South Carolina have Jim Crow toilet facilities, and that George Baldanzi, chief of "Operation Dixie," refuses to permit colored workers to use the same halls with whites.

I wonder whether he knows that now the CIO has dropped its liberal ideas there are separate hiring halls for maritime workers in Houston, Texas.

I wonder whether Mr. Wilkins knows that after Joe Curran, head of the National Maritime Union, staged a red purge, that he slipped through a resolution which practically freezes all colored seamen in grades below World War II level.

The rule provides that no seaman shall be employed at skills he did not possess prior to World War II. This nullifies all the progress and upgrading made by colored seamen on Liberty ships during the war.

CIO Office Boys

The so-called leftists fought this rule and got purged for their pains.

Both Willard Townsend and his side-kick, George Weaver, who set themselves up as the high priests of the labor movement, are little more than glorified office boys carrying out the work of the real CIO brain-trusters.

Proof of this is found in the fact that right now, Townsend's henchmen are down in Dixie trying to raid the ousted and inter-racial Food and Tobacco Workers union and to corral them under the banner of the Transport Service Employes Union.

All of these facts only prove that, under present conditions in America, one can get away with murder if he can only convince somebody that his victim was a Commie. That makes iniquity too cheap.